

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Attending: Jana McGee, Rebecca Swanson, Molly O'Donnell, Gwen White, Teddie Mower, Stephanie Richards, Jeff Jewel, Dave Rollo,

Regrets: Joe Kielar, Gary Charbonneau, Bill Brown, Jessica Pittman

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: None

Public comment: None

Announcements

Molly announced a Cut Your Carbon Workshop to be held on October 14.

There will be a Smart City Cycling class on September 12, and additional dates later in the fall. Details are at Bloomington.in.gov/bike.

On Sunday, September 13, there will be a Lake Monroe clean up at 1:30 pm, and volunteers are still needed.

Timebanking is going very well, and Teddie shared info on several new member orientations.

Stephanie noted that there will be a "Who's Responsible for Sustainability?" panel on September 24 in the University Club in the IMU

Approval of Minutes: The August minutes were approved unanimously.

STAR Communities Update

Stephanie will present the work done on Economy & Jobs at the November BCOS meeting. Other topic areas are on hold for now.

Report from the Chair

Duncan Campbell will present on embodied energy at the BCOS in October.

Jeff has had additional discussions with the Hamilton campaign about sustainability issues and will share information if there are topics of particular interest.

Sustainability Coordinator Report

H2H update – The sale was very successful and raised a record-breaking \$46k. Over 3000 people attended, and an estimated 60 tons of reusable items were collected. Thanks to all who helped.

Energy Challenge update –

The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps volunteers will arrive on September 22, and organizers will be focused on scheduling as many free home energy assessments as possible. Please help get the word out by sending people to www.mocoenergychallenge.org.

EA trainings – to be held 9/23 and 10/2. Targeting students but all members of the public are welcome to attend.

Dashboard – Jacqui noted that there are continued problems with the dashboard, which will show how Monroe County is performing relative to other communities in the competition. Georgetown's goal is to make the dashboard public by the end of September with data from the first two quarters.

Committee reports:

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: No report

EC: Cities cannot ban pesticides like Roundup because of home rule. Griffy Lake water samples found that the upper part of the lake is eutrophic and still showing infestations of milfoil and other invasives; Parks is considering using herbicides to help control this. Updates are being made to the urban forest plan to allow for new cultivars and possible new treatments for emerald ash borer.

Deer control – some increased incidents of disease that are of concern.

The city website is being revamped, and this will include a revamp of commission websites.

Environmental movies of interest: Merchants of Doubt (about techniques used to cast doubt on science of climate change and other topics); True Cost (documentary on fashion industry)

Bring Your Bag Bloomington: Dave indicated that the council is interested in the issue, but have elected to delay action for now. The ordinance as written aims to ban plastic and institute a fee for paper bags. Outstanding questions: who should keep the fee, how to evaluate success; should it be considered a pilot; how do constituents and businesses feel about the ban; penalties for non-compliance.

The council has a number of issues coming before them before the end of the year, so will likely not put this issue on the schedule until next year.

Rebecca noted that although impacts of plastic bags are not as visible as coastal cities, who see impacts on marine life, there are huge impacts in terms of production, irresponsible use of resources, very low rates of recycling, etc. Jeff noted that the Surfriders Foundation has done extensive research on impacts of plastic (both pre- and post-consumer) that may be of interest as the council conducts its research.

Dave asked that any information regarding this be shared with Dan Sherman in the Council office (shermand@bloomington.in.gov)

New Business:

No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.